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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/22/2024

TAGS: PHUM PINR PREL PROP PTER CASC IR AU

SUBJECT: FURTHER INFORMATION FROM AUSTRIA ON AMCITS IN IRAN

REF: (A) STATE 94757 (B) VIENNA 1172 (C) VIENNA 1201

Classified By: Econ/Pol Counselor Dean Yap. Reason: 1.4(b) and (d).

(C) Austrian MFA Middle East Director Stift contacted Econ/Pol Counselor Sept. 22 to relay additional information gathered by Austrian Ambassador to Iran Postl on the six Amcit detained in Iran.

Kian Tajbakhsh: Postl's sources have suggested that Tajbakhsh could be pardoned in the days or weeks after President Ahmadinejad returns from the UNGA, either by Ahmadinejad or by Supreme Leader Khamanei. Some sources suggested the Iranians would seek a "quid" for Takbakhsh's release.

Three Hikers: The Iranian MFA has told Postl again that a written request for consular access would be helpful and that they are still awaiting such a request. Postl also said he would be able to convey a letter from the families of the three hikers to the office of Supreme Leader Khamanei.

Reza Taghavi: Postl has learned that he is in prison in Tehran. EACHO